

Amendments to the Claims:

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A process for cutting at least one optical fiber, the process comprising the steps of:

introducing a glass fiber into a holding and positioning device;
actuating a laser device to deliver a beam having a power suitable for sublimating glass; and
effecting the relative movement of said beam across said glass fiber along a path comprising two predetermined angles, thereby sublimating glass and cutting said glass fiber along said path to shape a wedge on the end face of the fiber.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A process for cutting at least one optical fiber, the process comprising the steps of:

introducing a glass fiber into a holding and positioning device;
actuating a laser device to deliver a beam having a power suitable for sublimating glass; and
effecting the relative movement of said beam across said glass fiber along a path having a predetermined angle, thereby sublimating glass and cutting said glass fiber along said path, said predetermined angle being repeatable within less than $\pm 0.5^\circ$ at the core region.

12. (cancelled).

13. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein said beam is a continuation wave.
14. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein said beam is a pulsed.
15. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the laser is a CO₂ laser.
- 16-17. (cancelled)
18. (original) A fiber prepared in accordance with the process of claim 9.
19. (currently amended) A fiber obtainable by:
introducing a glass fiber into a holding and positioning device;
actuating a laser device to deliver a beam having a power suitable for sublimating glass; and
effecting the relative movement of said beam along a path across the optical axis of said glass fiber, thereby sublimating glass and cutting said glass fiber along said path to form an end face on said fiber;
wherein ~~said fiber comprises an~~ said end face ~~at least a portion of which~~ is angled at more than about 15° from perpendicular of the optical axis of said fiber.
20. (previously presented) The fiber of claim 19, comprising an end face having a rounded edge.
21. (previously presented) The fiber of claim 20, wherein said fiber is integrated with an optical package and positioned within said optical package in a v-groove

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22-23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) The fiber according to claim 19, wherein said predetermined angle is about 45° .

25. (previously presented) The process of claim 19, wherein said relative movement of said fiber to said laser beam is effected in one of two ways, a first way in which the fiber moves and the laser beam remains stationary, and a second way in which the laser beam moves and the fiber remains stationary.